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Railroad Terminal: Kansas City, Missouri

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Railroad Terminal

Kansas City, Missouri

Jim Locashio

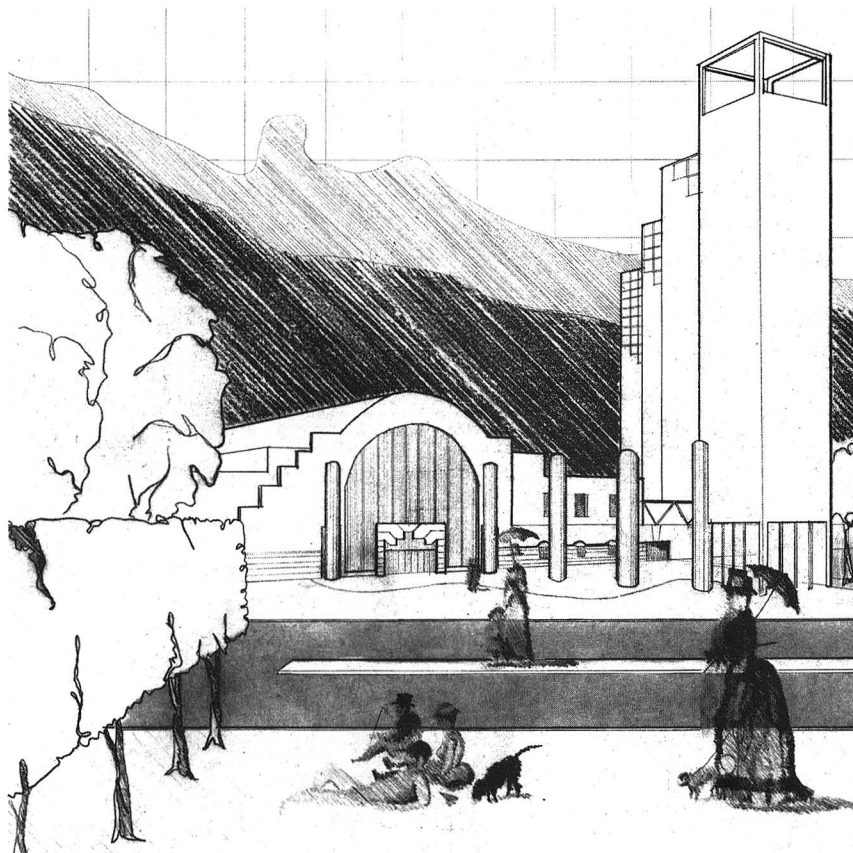
Critic: Richard Pohlman

Program

This scheme for a new railroad station in Kansas City, Missouri, attempts to integrate traditional symbols of the building type with new methods of collecting natural energy sources. Located between Baltimore and Main Streets, on the southern edge of downtown, the site is adjacent to the yards developed to serve old Union Station (1910-1914, Jarvis Hunt). The new terminal would serve as a hub for eight commuter rail lines and as a shuttle to Kansas City International Airport. The program specified three windmill towers to generate electricity for the rail lines and terminal operation.

Solution

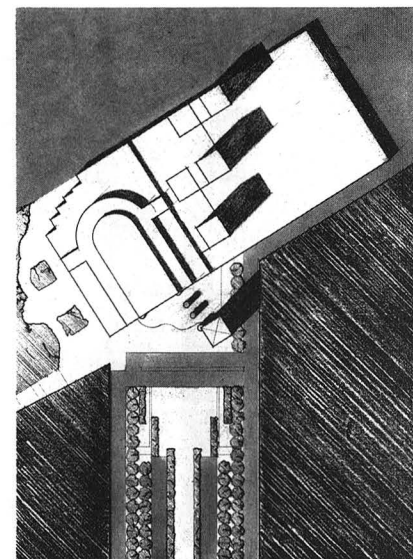
The scheme is organized along two axes. The principle axis is established by an allée of trees perpendicular to the street. Due to site restrictions, the axis bends at the side entry court and extends to the apse end of the concourse. The shift is punctuated by a campanile and a row of freestanding columns, which continues inside, dividing the concourse into central and peripheral zones. A variety of public service areas, different in size and configuration, enframe the peripheral zone, remaining subordinate to the concourse's spatial order. Terminal operation facilities are housed above the public service areas. A secondary axis extends from the street to enhance the central train platform. Supports for the three power-generating towers act as transition spaces between the waiting room and platforms.



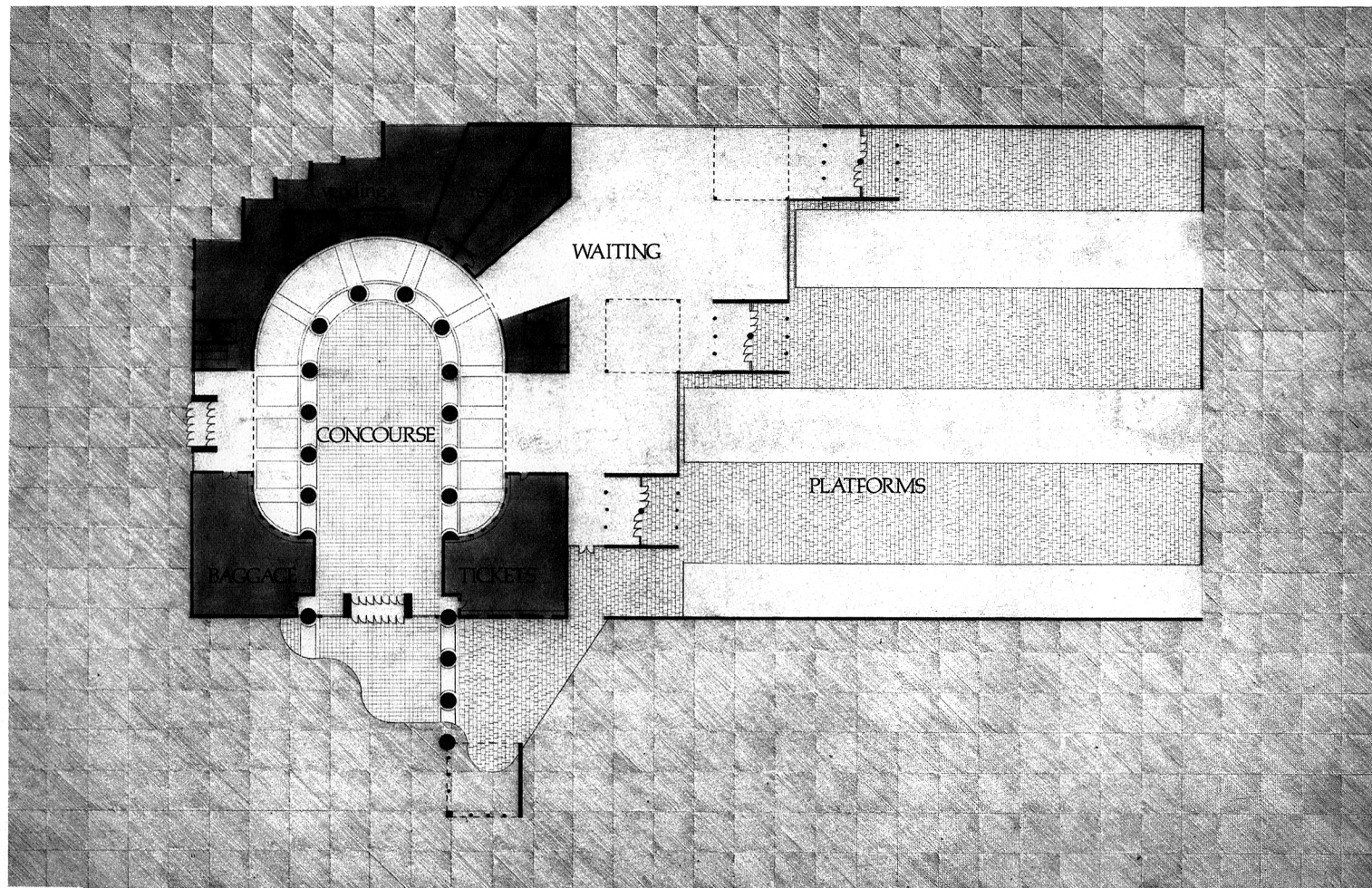
South view

The scheme expresses its public nature through monumentality. The large, columned entry hall, covered by a barrel vault and half-dome, is intended to recall early 20th century American stations as well as their ancient Roman prototypes. The sense of monumentality is continued in the rooms, platforms, and windmill towers, yet is expressed through contemporary technology. This duality extends to the exterior. The main

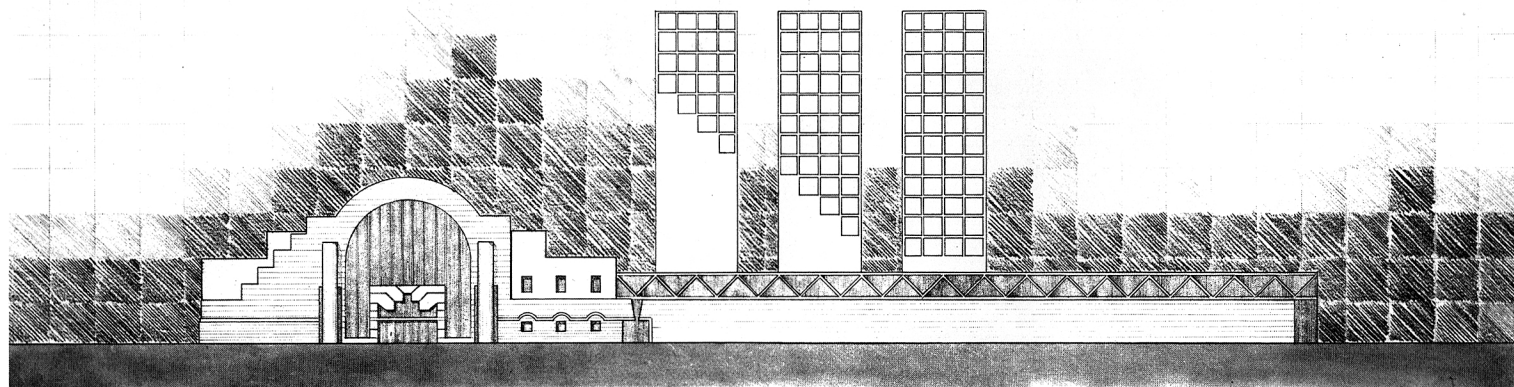
entry on the north facade employs a rusticated granite base and large glazed openings which echo the concourse. In contrast, the south facade presents a machine image. The slick grass, polished travertine surfaces, and exposed steel trusses evoke memories of turn-of-the-century railroad sheds, and provide a strong, yet unobtrusive, backdrop to the nearby Union Station.



Site plan



Floor plan
South elevation



North elevation

Longitudinal section

